

# **PFAS Strategic Roadmap Briefing for Administrator Regan**

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Assistant Administrator**

**Deb Szaro,  
Acting Regional Administrator**

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**Deliberative, Internal, July 2021**



# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Update the Administrator on work of the EPA PFAS Council
- Present the outline of the PFAs Strategic Roadmap and garner the Administrator's feedback
- Review upcoming milestones and seek concurrence on approach to a final Roadmap

# Our Charge

- Develop “PFAS 2021-2025 -Safeguarding America's Waters, Air and Land,” a multi-year strategy to deliver critical public health protections to the American public. To develop the strategy, the ECP will review all ongoing actions, propose any necessary modifications and identify new strategies and priorities. The ECP shall make initial recommendations to me within 100 days of its establishment.
- Continue close interagency coordination on regional specific and cross-media issues to assist states, tribes and local communities faced with significant and complex PFAS challenges.
- Work with all national program offices and regions to maximize the impact of the EPA’s funding and financing programs to support cleanup of PFAS pollution, particularly in underserved communities.
- Expand engagement opportunities with federal, state and tribal partners to ensure consistent communications, exchange information and identify collaborative solutions.

# Council Members

Office	Members
Co-Chairs	Radhika Fox (OW), Deb Szaro (R1)
OA	John Lucey, Andrea Drinkard
OECA	Cindy Mackey, Karin Leff
OGC	Dawn Messier, Jen Lewis
ORD	Tim Watkins, Susan Burden
OAR	John Shoaff
OCSPP	Jeffrey Dawson, Tala Henry
OLEM	Dana Stalcupp, Dawn Banks
OW	Jennifer McLain, Deborah Nagle, Zach Schafer
R4	John Blevins
R5	Tera Fong



# Roadmap Outline

- **Preface from Administrator Regan**
  - Vision statement and moral guidepost
- **Introduction**
- **Current Landscape and Trends**
  - Narrative framing the challenges, current regulatory landscape, state of science and research, etc.
- **Strategic Framework**
  - Key goals and objectives to guide EPA actions
- **Actions**
  - Specific actions for the Agency's offices to undertake to achieve the objectives and goals laid out in the framework, with office leads and proposed timeframes

# Current Landscape and Trends

- **Lifecycle of PFAS:** Overview of PFAS chemical group
- **Getting upstream of the problem:** How PFAS enter the environment and need for prevention
- **Pervasive presence of PFAS in the environment:** Overview of scope of existing presence in water/air/land and need for remediation
- **Patchwork of regulations:** Current inadequate regulatory framework
- **Whole of government approach:** Addressing PFAS requires cross-agency and intergovernmental coordination
- **Equity and EJ implications:** Addressing disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups
- **Need for funding:** Resource needs to address the problem
- **Effective interventions are predicated on science:** Need for more research and scientific understanding of PFAS, health impacts, and methods to remediate and destroy
- **Risk communications and transparency:** Importance of education and communication with impacted communities, the press, and other stakeholders

# Strategic Framework

The Roadmap's strategic framework is build around five central goals. Specific objectives and actions map to each goal.

- **Goal 1 – Research** Invest in robust research, development, and innovation to deepen understanding of PFAS risks, human health and ecological impacts, and effective interventions that are grounded in the best available science.
- **Goal 2 – Restrict** Undertake a comprehensive approach to proactively prevent future PFAS from entering air, land, and water. August: feedback sessions and revisions with EPA offices
- **Goal 3 – Remediate** Accelerate the cleanup of PFAS contamination to protect human health and ecological systems.
- **Goal 4 – Relationship Building** Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to help support action in communities, with focus on underserved communities.
- **Goal 5 – Risk Communication** Undertake comprehensive risk communications to fully inform the public on the human health and ecological risks of PFAS.

# Strategic Framework – Goal 1

Goals	Objectives
<p>Goal #1</p> <p>Research: Invest in robust research, development, and innovation to deepen understanding of PFAS risks, human health and ecological impacts, and effective interventions that are grounded in the best available science.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Accelerate EPA’s efforts to address individual and groups of PFAS by establishing definitions, research, toxicity values, and methods.</li><li>2. Utilize all authorities to gather PFAS data and information.</li><li>3. Increase scientific understanding on the universe of PFAS compounds, sources of environmental contamination, exposure pathways, and impacts on human health and ecosystems.</li><li>4. Research current and emerging treatment, remediation, destruction, disposal, control and mitigation technologies or approaches to reduce PFAS in the environment.</li></ol>



# Strategic Framework – Goal 2

Goals	Objectives
Goal #2 Restrict: Undertake a comprehensive approach to proactively prevent future PFAS from entering air, land, and water.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Utilize and harmonize all authorities to control and prevent future PFAS contamination and minimize the use of PFAS in consumer products and industrial uses.</li><li>2. Place responsibility on PFAS manufacturers, importers, processors, distributors, dischargers, treatment and disposal facilities, and users (including industrial users) for the risks of PFAS products and materials for the entire lifecycle--from creation to safe destruction and disposal.</li><li>3. Establish voluntary programs to control and limit the use of PFAS.</li></ol>

# Strategic Framework – Goal 3

Goals	Objectives
Goal #3 Remediate: Broaden and accelerate the cleanup of PFAS contamination to protect human health and ecological systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Utilize and harmonize all authorities to address PFAS contamination and protect communities and the environment from PFAS contamination.</li><li>2. Maximize responsible party performance and funding for investigations and cleanup of PFAS contamination.</li><li>3. Accelerate the deployment of treatment, remediation, destruction, disposal, control, and mitigation technologies for PFAS, ensuring these deployments do not disproportionately negatively impact underserved communities.</li><li>4. Maximize the impact of the EPA's funding and financing programs, to accelerate clean-up and compliance activities, particularly in underserved communities.</li></ol>

# Strategic Framework – Goal 4

Goals	Objectives
Goal #4 Relationship Building: Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to help support action in communities, with focus on underserved communities.	<p>4.1 Integrate equity, environmental justice, and life stage considerations into EPA's efforts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Coordinate federal, state, and other public and private funding and financing programs to support communities in addressing PFAS contamination, particularly in underserved communities.</li><li>3. Identify statutory and financing gaps and partner with Congress to expand funding and statutory authorities to comprehensively address the PFAS crisis.</li><li>4. Contribute to undertaking a whole-of-government approach to the PFAS crisis.</li><li>5. Engage with affected states, tribes, communities, and stakeholders to identify opportunities for federal actions and partnerships</li></ol>

# Strategic Framework – Goal 5

Goals	Objectives
Goal #5 Risk Communication: Undertake comprehensive risk communications to fully inform the public on the human health and ecological risks of PFAS.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Share meaningful, understandable, and actionable information, in collaboration with federal and state partners about risks from and exposure to PFAS with communities affected by PFAS contamination and the general public.</li></ol>

# Action Examples

Action	Lead Office	Objectives	Anticipated Timeframe
<b>FY 2021</b>			
Publish draft 5 <sup>th</sup> Contaminant Candidate List of potential drinking water contaminants not currently subject to EPA drinking water regulations	OGWDW	1.2 1.3	July 2021
Obtain decisions on industrial categories where new or revised ELGs maybe warranted, and initiate ELG rulemakings as directed	OST	1.3	August 2021
<b>FY 2022</b>			
Finalize the 5 <sup>th</sup> unregulated contaminant monitoring rule (UCMR5), requiring finished water monitoring for 29 PFAS at many public drinking water systems from 2023 through 2025.	OGWDW	1.2 1.3	December 2021
Finalize the 5 <sup>th</sup> Contaminant Candidate List of potential drinking water contaminants not currently subject to EPA drinking water regulations	OGWDW	1.2 1.3	July 2022
<b>FY 2023</b>			
Propose the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation	OGWDW	1.2 3.1	March 2023
Complete detailed studies for industrial categories identified in Prelim Plan 15	OST	1.3	December 2022
<b>FY 2024</b>			
Finalize the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation	OGWDW	1.2 3.1	September 2024
Finalize Human Health criteria for PFAS	OST	1.3	September 2024

# Discussion

- Does the strategic roadmap present a clear and compelling vision for how the EPA will accelerate action on PFAs?
- Goals and Objectives. Are these the right goals and objectives? Is it possible to make significant and measurable progress on these goals and objectives in the next 4 years?
- Action Plans. Does the format and level of specificity work for the Actions Plans by office?
- Anything that is missing? Unnecessary?



# Next Steps

- July: finish drafting Roadmap
- August: feedback sessions and revisions with EPA offices
- September: engagement sessions with federal family
- September-November: engagement sessions with co-regulators and impacted and interested stakeholders

# QUESTIONS/ FURTHER DISCUSSION



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